

# HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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### Upcoming

**Saturday Nov. 16**  
10:00 am—4:00 pm  
**Genealogy Fair**  
Hamilton Public  
Library, Central  
Branch 55 York  
Blvd.

**Tues. Nov. 19th**  
11:30am  
Rob Flosman will  
be speaking at  
St. James Seniors'  
lunch (\$5)

## November Public Meeting

### *History of the Royal Botanical Gardens*

Dr. David Allan Galbraith is the head of science at the Royal Botanical Gardens and he has been with the RBG since 1995. He is trained as a wildlife biologist and focuses on partnerships and practical programs, encouraging the conservation of biological diversity in real landscapes.

He will be sharing with us Thomas Baker McQuesten's vision of a cultural, educational, and research institution that came to life in the 1920's. He will also tell us how, in the decades since, multiple lands have been brought together and the factors that have contributed to the landscape we see today.



Dr. David Galbraith

**Friday, November 29, 2019**

8:00 pm

St. James United Church  
306 Parkside Dr  
Waterdown

**Free Admission All are Welcome!**



## SELF CARE — THEN & NOW



As the hands of time tick forward, things found in our distant (or not so distant) past are often repeated or become relevant once again. For example, the "Niagara Vapor Bath" advertised in the Fall & Winter 1898-99 Eaton Catalogue is similar to home spa treatments of today, most

notably portable saunas that promise nearly the same results as their predecessor from a century ago.



## HERITAGE PAPER #285

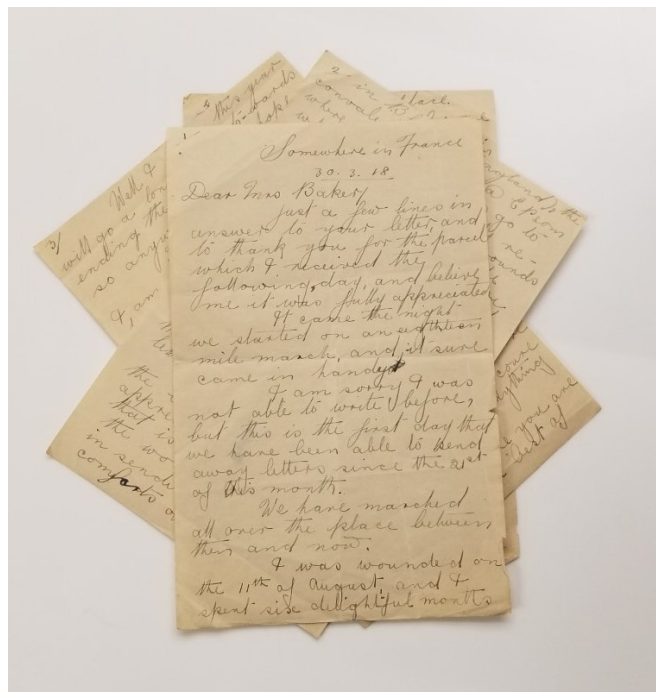
**Please Write Often:  
Wartime Correspondence in the Last Century**

For historians who use letters as part of their research, the pleasures of reading them translate into specific reasons for why they are valuable windows for looking into the past. These personal texts rely on narrative, giving historians a useful but sometimes challenging threshold for the story they want to tell. Most personal texts have a certain candid quality which contrasts with the highly conceptualized and self-protective language of more "official" documents. Although usually only literate people exchanged letters, they were important to a wide variety of people in the past – wealthy and poor, old and young, women and men – making letters among the most democratic of sources.

Correspondence during war or times of unrest help to ease the pain of separation between soldiers and their loved ones. Surviving letters give a glimpse of what not only those fighting at the front lines were experiencing but also brought news from home to those that had been away for some time. During WWI, the British Army Postal Service delivered more than 12 million letters each week, allowing servicemen to communicate with home.

The nineteenth century set the tone for modern letters, though they retained elements of earlier correspondence. The American Civil War taught Americans the art of letter writing – most families had never endured a long separation before, and had little experience writing letters to each other. Letters had the ability of bearing the burdens of keeping in touch and easing the worry about loved ones' well-being. A popular topic was reporting the news of ones physical self – from a world that had been one of doing and touching rather than reading and writing, by describing their weight, how they looked, and what they ate reshaped the culture of letter writing. A letter in this time period would also bring news of home to soldiers that were isolated from the world.

Stored away on the Archives shelves is a



*Letter from Pt. Buczeg to Mrs. Bess Baker, 30 Mar 1918*

letter from one Private M.A. Buczeg to Mrs Bess Baker during the First World War. Dated eight months before the end of the war, and sent from "Somewhere in France", the letter covers a range of topics including the weather, recounting war-time experiences, as well as the expression of gratitude for the efforts of those left behind. "I can assure that the boys out here fully appreciate the good work that is being done by the women of Canada in sending socks and comforts out here to them." The ability to be able to send post to and from the Home Front was a large morale boost during any conflict. Receiving well wishes and gifts was one of few comforts a soldier had, and writing home was often a welcome distraction from the horrors of war. However, letters sent back by soldiers were subject to censorship. While it is claimed this was to prevent the enemy finding out secret information, it was also to prevent bad news from reaching the home front. If support for the war across the home front was jeopardized, the conflict outcome could also be affected if morale were to drop. Fighting men were also keen to hide the realities of war from

## FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACT

### The Subtle Influence of Matchbook Advertising

Many businesses throughout Flamborough have used matchbooks as a way to advertise. Long before Google, print and television owned the advertising market.

There are up to 28 advertising 'impressions' per single matchbook. The user would look at the advertisement 20 times to light a match, and the people around the match user were exposed up to 8-times. Matchbooks were essentially a billboard in the palm of your hand!

We have a few matchbooks in the Archives, including some with interesting graphics and slogans. While some businesses are familiar, others have been lost to time.



Where was Nancy's Towing? Let us know!

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



Membership fees are a valuable resource that are used for various projects and expenses throughout the year. Membership fees were due in September, but a good number of Society members have yet to renew!



Please show us your continued support by sending in your overdue membership fees. Consider a lifetime membership, and please encourage your friends and family to become a member!

their loved ones, leaving out much of what they really went through.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century it may be difficult to see the value of letter writing as a means of communication. Over the course of the twentieth century, letters went from being the preferred method of communication to being outstripped by the convenience of the telephone. Relaying news to those who were far away and might not have heard it, was absorbed first by the radio and then by the television. With the Internet boom of the 1990s and the advent of

e-mail, letter writing was further relegated to the background. The arrival of social media allows for more instantaneous and informal form of communication and news delivery. War correspondence written in 140 characters does little to boost morale, which is why letters and packages are still sent to soldiers globally, whether from family members or through volunteer programs.

Meghan Martin, Archives Volunteer



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## THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

### The Brock Road

*From: Strabane Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History*

In the early days there was a dearth of money and the concessions were little more than oxen paths. Settlers often travelled 'as the crow flies'. The Brock Road, running through Strabane was named after General Sir Isaac Brock (Note: There is some controversy over this as some say it was named after T.R. Brock, Secretary and a Director of the company mainly responsible for the road construction). It had an earlier name, one not familiar today although it is on all the patents granted to the first owners of the land by the crown. This was Aboukir Road and it commemorated the victory of Viscount Horatio Nelson on Aboukir Bay, at the Battle of the Nile on August 1, 1798.

On April 25, 1827 the first tree was chopped down in the Canada Company's 40,000 acre Guelph Block. This stirred the Flamborough residents to action, as they wanted the settlers of the new village of Guelph to pass their doors and shop in their stores. Eight men, including James Crooks of Flamborough, collected subscriptions for a new road from Guelph to Dundas. The Canada Company built the Guelph end and the Flamborough men built the section from Freelon to Bullock's Corners. By 1831 it was a passible, corduroy road.

However in 1836, Dr. Thomas Rolph describes the road from Dundas to Guelph via Hayesland and Strabane thus: "As through a dense pine wood, extreme cedar swamps, with very few clearings, until within eight miles of Guelph. It is almost impassible in the spring and autumn months. The horrible, causewayed road clumsily put together, renders the route by Galt far preferable."

In 1840, the Guelph and Dundas Road Company took over operation and levied tolls to cover the cost of building and maintenance. The first tolls were 1 s. 10 ½ d. for every 16 miles for a team and wagon. 7 d half-penny were charged for a horse and rider, 3 half-pence for a sheep or pig. There was no toll for people going to church or to a funeral in the same township.

Villages sprang up along the route – Bullock's Corners, Greensville, Hayesville, Strabane and Freelon. A stage ran regularly and the road was filled day and night with flour teams from the various mills. While travel in the early days was chiefly by horseback, the main settlements were gradually linked by stagecoach. This necessitated inns at various intervals for the refreshment of travellers and the changing of horses. In 1860 the toll gates were at the 4<sup>th</sup> Concession, the corner of the Sixth Concession and Brock Road, operated by Michael Brown, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> Concession, operated by William Hyslop. The tolls were removed in 1890.

There were two hotels in Freelon, two at the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession and one at the 5<sup>th</sup> Concession. These are the reported licensed hotels, but it is said that there were no less than 11 hotels from the 4<sup>th</sup> concession to Freelon.

When the cut was made through the 'Clappison Mountain' around 1919, that road was paved and officially became Highway # 6. It provided a more direct link to Guelph and traffic on Brock road was much reduced.

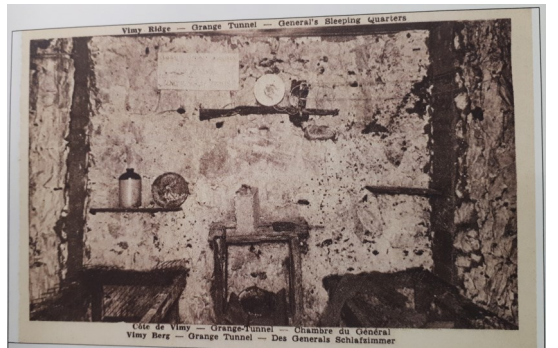


Brock Road, west of Bullock's Corners. c. 1885



Freelon Hotel built by Thomas Campbell, brother-in-law of Patrick Freelon, founder of Freelon.

## TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES



Selections from the Robert Wray World War I Postcard Collection

— Flamborough Archives

## WATERDOWN MUSEUM of HISTORY



Waterdown's Bob Thomas

The Museum opens its doors again this year November 11 with new featured exhibits— one highlighting the 30th anniversary of the end of the Cold War. Featured in this exhibit will be Waterdown's Bob Thomas, a Canadian military veteran, and his 1956 Triumph motorcycle. Another big draw will be the virtual reality goggles from the Anne Frank House in Holland, available to visitors as part of the Anne Frank exhibit.

Since June 2014, the Waterdown Museum of History has been open every semester for two weeks, and is home to over 700 artifacts that have been donated by residents of the Flamborough area. The collection grows year by year!

The student curated museum will be open November 11-22 on weekdays from 10a.m. to 1 p.m., and Wednesday November 13 from 4 to 8 p.m. There is an admission fee of \$2.





**The Flamborough  
Heritage Society**

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**Officers 2019–2020**

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1st Vice President:

Corrie Giles

2nd Vice President:

Carol Snell

Secretary: Sue McNally

Treasurer: Danielle Herrnstein

Past-President:

Nathan Tidridge

**Board Members**

Bailey Cripps

Brenda Jefferies

Mary Beth Kennedy

Meghan Martin

Keri Raphael

Kim Hirst, Newsletter

Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



## NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

In our last newsletter we told you about our Book Fair, which is our main fundraising event of the year. It was successful and we raised about the same amount as last year even though our expenses, for various reasons, were 4 times higher than last year. Our other source of revenue is memberships. As you have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, many of our members have not renewed their memberships.

This is a plea.

Your memberships basically fund our operating costs, as we do not receive any regular funding from anywhere. We apply for Canada Summer Jobs funding for our summer student(s). All of the Board and Archives workers are volunteers. Our Archives is open 4 days a week—rare for a small volunteer run Archives.

While we would like more participation from our members, we acknowledge that many of you are not local to Flamborough. But please show your support for our work by renewing your memberships, telling your friends about us—and perhaps by donating a little more. Thanks!

Chris Rivait, President

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### AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

[www.ancasterhistory.ca](http://www.ancasterhistory.ca)

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

[www.burlingtonhistorical.ca](http://www.burlingtonhistorical.ca)

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

[www.dundashistory.ca](http://www.dundashistory.ca)

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

[Grimsby Historical Society](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety)

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

[www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca](http://www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca)

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety)

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** -

[www.uel.com](http://www.uel.com)

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - [www.wlhs.info](http://www.wlhs.info)